

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.  
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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90 times	4.55
91 times	4.60
92 times	4.65
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SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1897.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COM-  
BINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SER-  
VICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSO-  
CIATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS,  
THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS,  
THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED  
PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

**NEPOTIOUS COUNCILMEN.**  
Nepotism must be raging in Richmond,  
to call forth such an ordinance as that  
which has passed the Common Council,  
and which contemplates forbidding mem-  
bers of either branch to vote to elevate  
to office near kinsmen and marital rela-  
tives.

True, the Board of Aldermen has re-  
jected the ordinance, but a committee of  
conference has just recommended the  
Board to reverse its action. Under the  
circumstances, we must presume that  
the evil complained of exists, but we can-  
not believe the remedy proposed will avail.

If we understand the State Constitu-  
tion aright, it sets forth what are the  
qualifications for voting and holding of-  
fice, and with all due respect for our  
City Council, we doubt if it has the power  
to amend or abrogate any of the provisions  
of that instrument.

If a man be eligible for office, any other  
qualified voter has the right to vote for him.

The Legislature of Virginia, when it  
passed the first electoral-board bill (An-  
derson-McCormick law), required that the  
members of the board should be free-  
holders, but the Supreme Court of Ap-  
peals of Virginia declared that that  
requirement was unconstitutional and  
void. And so the Legislature had to be  
reconvened in midsummer to pass an-  
other law.

The fact is, the provision with refer-  
ence to freeholders was inserted in the  
law unintentionally; the Legislature knew  
that it could not add to the qualifications  
for holding office prescribed by the Con-  
stitution.

A man, no matter what may be his  
official or unofficial position, may vote  
for himself, or for his son, or his father,  
or his brother-in-law, or any other per-  
son who is qualified to hold office under  
the Constitution.

The only good likely to come out of  
the proposed ordinance is that it will call  
public attention to the evils of nepo-  
tism—among others, we are willing to  
condemn in others, yet are willing to  
practice ourselves.

If the proposed ordinance should pass  
the Board and be approved by the Mayor,  
it would be a dead-letter; it could not be  
enforced. It would only be an ad-  
dition to the many laws that are made  
but are not enforced.

It may be, however, that the discussion  
that has taken place will not be with-  
out good effect. Public attention will  
be drawn to the evil complained of, and,  
possibly, members of the City Council  
will be less eager hereafter than heretofore  
to hold their kin and connections in  
office. But there never was a time  
within the memory of "the oldest in-  
habitant" when charges were not made  
that many men went to our City Coun-  
cil in order to provide places for kin-  
smen or connections. Population and  
opportunities considered, we doubt if the  
evil is as great now as it was formerly.

Without having any statistics to present  
in support of our position, we venture  
to say that there has been an improve-  
ment here in this respect in late years.  
Still, that the evil exists, or is believed  
to exist, is shown from the circumstan-  
ces to which we have referred. It re-  
mains to be seen, however, whether the  
City Council will persist in trying to  
put upon the statute-books of the city a  
"law" which, it should know, will be  
no law—it being conceded that the State  
Constitution cannot be abrogated by any  
City Council.

**RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS.**

Despite the war fever in Greece, ar-  
chaeological investigation continues to be  
prospered with unabated vigor, and  
late Athenian newspapers report several  
recent finds of great interest, the de-  
scriptions of which are summarized and  
commented upon in the last Nation. The  
Germans, in their excavations near the  
Acropolis in Athens, discovered a  
polished, on which had been scratched  
in ancient characters the name of The-  
mistocles. This was used, it is believed,  
either when this statesman was ostrac-

cised, about 471 B. C., or a dozen years  
earlier, when he succeeded in securing the  
ostracism of his rival, Aristides, the  
Just. Three similar ostraka were pre-  
viously known, one bearing the name  
of Megacles, uncle of Pericles, and two  
bearing the name of Xanthippus, the  
father of Pericles. Two of these were  
found on the Acropolis, and the other  
near the Cerameus. The excavation of  
the theatre at Delphi by the French has  
been completed. This is connected with  
the sacred precinct (peribolos), of Apollo's  
Temple, and is said to be well-preserved.  
It has seven sections (kirkkides) of seats,  
with thirty-three rows in each section.

In his excavation on the northern slope  
of the Athenian Acropolis, Kabbadias,  
Ephor-General of Antiquities, found other  
caves besides those formerly known and  
assigned to Apollo and to Pan, and de-  
termined that which he called the grotto of  
Apollo Pan. Ten votive inscriptions were  
there discovered, on small marble table-  
tops, which had stood in niches in the  
rock. These inscriptions are surround-  
ed each by a wreath, which Kabbadias  
believes to represent myrtle, and each  
bears the names not only of the chief  
archon of the city, but also of the archon  
basileus and the thesmothetae. The  
place where the altar of Apollo stood is  
clearly marked. This grotto, remarks the  
Nation, is of special literary interest,  
since it was the birthplace of Ion, ac-  
cording to Euripides's play of that name.  
The same excavations of Kabbadias  
brought to light steps cut in the rock  
which lead to the stairs that were laid  
bare in the excavations of 1886. Up these  
steps the Persians may have climbed in  
their invasion of Greece under Xerxes  
in 480 B. C.

At Ambrakia, on the island of Salamis,  
fragments have been found of an ancient  
inscription in the Corinthian alphabet,  
which proves to be the first two verses  
of the epitaph composed by the poet  
Simonides of Ceos for the Corinthians  
who perished in the battle of Salamis:  
"Once we dwelt in the well-watered city  
of Corinth, but now Salamis, the island  
of Ajax, holds us." The dialect is strict  
Dorian, while the literary tradition of  
Dio Chrysostom and Plutarch gives the  
epigram of the Ionic poet in an Ionic  
form. It is thought that the spot where  
the inscription was found was the burial-  
place of the Corinthians, and that, possi-  
bly, the graves of the others who fought  
at Salamis lie near.

As bearing upon a somewhat similar  
field of knowledge, it may be noted that  
Dr. Adolf Neubauer, the well-known  
Semitic scholar, and assistant librarian  
of the Bodleian, has just edited in col-  
laboration with A. E. Cowley, of War-  
ham College, Oxford, a Hebrew text of  
portions of Ecclesiastes, which is a re-  
cent discovery among a mass of Hebrew  
and Arabic fragments acquired through  
Professor Sayce. The Bodleian Hebrew  
fragments consist of nine consecutive  
leaves, or eighteen pages, and, singularly  
enough, they form the continuation of a  
single leaf, or two pages, brought to Can-  
bridge in 1856 by Mr. S. S. Lewis. The  
Nation says the importance of Dr. Neu-  
bauer's publication in its bearing upon  
questions of Biblical criticism can hardly  
be overestimated. Hitherto, it adds, the  
original Hebrew text of Ecclesiastes has  
been regarded as hopelessly lost, and the  
fortunate discovery of this large portion  
of it will consequently excite all the  
more interest.

A Culpeper correspondent of the Fred-  
ericksburg Free Lance writes that paper  
that in 1852 and 1853 under the Van  
Buren Administration nearly everything  
the farmer had for sale was lower than  
at present—horses sold for from \$15 to  
\$30 and it took an extra good one to bring  
the latter price, colts from \$5 to \$15, ac-  
cording to age; cows, from \$3 to \$8;  
dry cows, \$4 to \$6, and calves, for 75  
cents to \$1 each; sheep at 50 to 90 cents;  
lambs, 50 to 75 cents; hogs, \$1 to \$3; bacon,  
5 cents per pound; turkeys, 15 cents  
each, and chickens for the asking; eggs,  
4 to 5 cents per dozen; corn, 25 to 30 cents  
per bushel; flour, \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel for  
the best; mill offal, 25 to 30 cents per 100,  
or 5 to 6 cents per bushel; hay, at any  
price they could get, and everything else  
in proportion. Money, he says, was  
scarce than ever known before or since,  
even the United States Treasury being  
well nigh empty. The late Hon. A. H. H.  
Stuart, of Staunton, told the correspondent  
a few years before his death that he  
was in Congress about that time and  
there were only a few thousand dollars  
in the Treasury and the government offi-  
cials had to go upon the streets of Wash-  
ington and borrow money to pay the  
officers' salaries.

Ex-Senator Brice is said to be about  
to build a hundred-thousand-dollar res-  
idence at Lima, O., which fact, we sup-  
pose, may be regarded as due notice to  
the Ohio Legislature, in particular, and  
the country at large, in general. A  
Lima special says: "Brice again has de-  
signs on the Senate, and if successful, he  
hopes four years hence to be the Demo-  
cratic nominee for President. With all  
these ambitions in view he sees he will  
have to more closely connect himself  
with Lima and the State of Ohio. Should  
the next Legislature be Democratic,  
Brice will be a candidate against any  
free silver man. Brice's agents are al-  
ready manufacturing sentiment for him  
in all the Democratic strongholds, and  
with a one-hundred-thousand-dollar res-  
idence in Lima there could be no charge  
that he is not a resident of Ohio."

"Silver Dick" Bland's return to the  
House of Representatives after the hiatus  
of one Congress was signaled on Fri-  
day by quite a demonstration in his  
honor. In his remarks on the Dingley  
bill, he spoke, it is said, "as though he  
had not been absent a day, all of his old  
mannerisms being noticeable. His rising  
was the signal for rapturous applause  
by Democrats on the floor and in the  
gallery, his reception being quite re-  
markable." "Do what you will," he  
warned the Republicans, "Pass this  
tariff bill and saddle additional taxes on  
the country. The day will come when  
the people will demand money to pay  
these taxes. You have refused them, and  
they will turn to the party of low taxes,  
which will again come into power." (Ap-  
plause.)

General Horace Porter, who has been  
nominated and confirmed as Minister to  
France, may not be able to speak the  
French language, but, we venture to say,  
he can dine in French or any other  
tongue, with ease and fluency.

The two fatalities, reported this morn-  
ing as resulting from boxing bouts,  
show what the pugilistic trend can do  
when at its best. The "carnival" at  
Carson has more than its own sins to  
answer for.

The horrible Pearl Bryan murder in-  
cident seems to have been closed in due  
and ancient form, after all. So may it  
be always.

## BIG AND LITTLE COUNTRIES.

It is nothing new for us to be told that  
a considerable number of counties in this  
State draw from the State Treasury in  
expenditures for enforcing the criminal  
laws and in public school funds a deal  
more of money than they pay in. Still,  
it is an important thing to remember,  
whilst we are talking about retrench-  
ment and reform, a constitutional con-  
vention, &c., &c.

It is a fact well worth remembering,  
too, that the cities and towns of Virginia  
pay into the State Treasury by far the  
greater part of the money with which we  
support the government, pay the interest  
upon the public debt, sustain the public  
schools, &c.

It is worth some thought, too, that if  
we did not appropriate \$1,250,000 per an-  
num to the colleges and public schools,  
we could cut down our tax rate from 40  
cents on the \$100 to about 25 cents on the  
\$100—and this notwithstanding the fact  
that we pay out \$33,000 per annum to  
care for lunatics and \$145,000 for pensions  
to disabled veterans and widows of our  
deceased soldiers. But who wants to  
decrease taxation by the adoption of any  
such expedient? Not many people, we  
feel sure.

Many other more or less sensible sugges-  
tions have been made as to reducing pub-  
lic expenses. We have heard very intelli-  
gent gentlemen say that Virginia has  
many more counties than she ought to  
have. Perhaps this is true. Perhaps if  
we had to deal with the question as a  
perfectly original proposition instead of  
dividing our State into 100 counties, as at  
present, we would divide it into 70 or 80,  
and thus save the tax-payers money in  
many directions. But the present forma-  
tion of counties is fixed to stand, we  
think, constitutional convention or no.

Again, it is said that each county  
ought to be made to pay its own criminal  
expenses. This would come pretty hard  
upon the little counties, and we can im-  
agine cases where such counties would  
have to choose between allowing viola-  
tors of the law to go at large or almost  
bankrupt themselves. Richmond would  
be much benefited by such a change, but  
we doubt if that change would be good  
public policy. At the same time, it does  
seem that there ought to be some sort of  
check put upon the State's expenditures  
in certain counties of this State.

There would be less objection to impos-  
ing upon each city or county the cost of  
caring for its lunatics than there would  
be in imposing upon it its criminal ex-  
penses. It would seem that no county  
could ever be "swamped" by having to  
pay the expense of its own insane con-  
fined in the State asylums, or hospitals,  
as they are now called. But the little  
counties, we suspect, would "kick"  
against such an arrangement.

Very able arguments may be made pro  
and con on the question of returning to  
each city and county the amount paid in  
by it on account of school funds. We  
shall not enter upon the matter here-  
but the present system presents inequali-  
ties that ought to be corrected, if it be  
possible to do so without impairing the  
effectiveness of our school system.

Excepting Texas, which is rich in pub-  
lic lands, we doubt if any Southern State  
appropriates more money than Virginia  
does for purposes of public education—  
nearly \$500,000 per annum for collegiate  
institutions and about \$500,000 for public  
schools. So, too, we have a heavier in-  
terest charge than any other Southern  
State—\$714,000 per annum, including the  
excess of interest paid to colleges and  
seminaries.

All these are subjects for considera-  
tion, no matter whether we are to have  
a constitutional convention or not. The  
remedies for some of the evils from  
which we suffer may be found in constitu-  
tional amendments proposed by the Le-  
gislation.

If it should be thought  
desirable, the Legislature could propose  
amendments abolishing the offices of  
County Judge and County Treasurer. So,  
too, it could propose amendments throw-  
ing upon the counties many of the  
charges that the State now bears. But  
when we come to consider seriously the  
question of restricting suffrage we are  
free to say that we do not believe it  
can be as wisely and safely treated in  
a Legislature as in a constitutional con-  
vention. It is a subject that might re-  
quire months of discussion; but if solved  
satisfactorily and so as to last for the  
next quarter of a century, it would be a  
boon for which we would all be grateful.  
However, we doubt if our people are yet  
ready to consider this question. They  
need time to think it over and canvass  
plans.

If called upon, a constitutional con-  
vention would in all probability meet and  
adjourn without action upon the suffrage  
question, so ill-prepared on the subject  
is the public mind.

So, we think we would better wait for  
that ripening of public opinion, which will  
come before very long, and which will  
enable us to attack the suffrage ques-  
tion boldly and effectually.

## MR. GLADSTONE'S PAMPHLET.

Despite the fact that he is nearly 90  
years of age, Mr. Gladstone has lost none  
of his power as a pamphleteer. Truly, he  
is England's Old Man Eloquent, as well  
as her Grand Old Man. His recent de-  
liverance on the Cretan question, which  
is at once an arraignment of the Salis-  
bury government and an appeal to  
Christendom, is a magnificent effort. It  
voices the sentiment of the masses of all  
civilized nations. It does not lay on too  
vigorously in dealing with either Great  
Britain or the other Powers touching the  
concert to curb Greece's ambition and  
prevent the emancipation of thousands  
of Christians from the yoke of the "un-  
speakable Turk," and the writer stands  
upon justice and truth.

And yet the document comes with ques-  
tionable grace from Mr. Gladstone, un-  
less we are prepared to concede that he  
should be held exempt from criticism for  
inconsistency. We have only to go back  
eleven years to find that Mr. Gladstone's  
animadversions upon Salisbury for  
uniting in coercive measures against  
Greece apply to his own record. He  
arraigns the Salisbury government for  
doing what a Liberal government, of  
which he was the head, did, under very  
similar conditions, in 1851. That year  
opened with Salisbury in power, Greece  
and Crete had both suffered great  
grievances; the pan-Hellenic feeling was  
at fever-heat, and warlike preparations  
were in progress in Greece that threat-  
ened the peace of Europe. The Greek  
army was mobilized, and then, as in  
1897, the Powers, Great Britain included,  
united in sending notes to Athens de-  
manding that the little kingdom abandon  
its hostile attitude towards Turkey. Early  
in February, 1851, while this de-  
mand was still pending, the Conservative  
ministry went out, and was succeeded by  
a Liberal ministry, with Mr. Glad-  
stone as Premier. This change of gov-  
ernment inspired bright hopes among the  
Hellenes. They fully believed that they  
would receive more sympathetic treat-

ment from the man who had so often  
thundered against Turkish atrocities,  
than had been accorded them by Salis-  
bury. But they were doomed to disap-  
pointment. Both Gladstone and Lord  
Rosebery, although they had posed prom-  
inently as phil-Hellenes, gave the Greeks  
to understand that the new government  
would adhere to the policy of their pre-  
decessors, and that policy was adhered  
to. France, as she has been in the  
present crisis, was apposed to an atti-  
tude of menace; but, then, as now, final-  
ly, yielded to the will of the majority; a  
blockade was established; Greece was  
forced to put down the sword and de-  
mobilize her army; the "Great Assassin  
of Europe" was encouraged to continue  
his oppression of Christians, and the pan-  
Hellenic dream again faded, for the time  
being.

Against Mr. Gladstone's personal char-  
acter no one can justly say anything.  
But his political record on many great  
questions is that of a trimmer. He has  
been much more aggressive and inde-  
pendent out of power than in power. If  
we except Rosebery, who, by agreement,  
caught Gladstone's mantle of premier-  
ship when the latter threw it off, under  
no Premier has Great Britain suffered  
more humiliation than under the Grand  
Old Man, as witness the Khartoum dis-  
aster and Majuba Hill. Indeed, it may  
be a question whether, after all, the  
failure of Gladstone to avenge Majuba,  
and to relieve Gordon, did not constitute  
a heavier blow to British influence  
and prestige than Rosebery's great  
fiasco, as involved in the far-East ques-  
tion.

None the less, it may, as asserted, be  
true, especially in view of the bold de-  
claration of the Liberal leaders respect-  
ing their party's policy regarding Turkey,  
that the Gladstone pamphlet promises  
to lead to the downfall of the Salisbury  
government. Certainly, the British pub-  
lic appear to be more in sympathy with  
Gladstone on the current issue than on  
any other issue he has ever raised. In  
the mean time, however, it begins to  
look as if the Græco-Cretan matter  
must either be settled by peace or war  
before there will be an opportunity for  
political conditions in Great Britain to  
influence either result. The war spirit  
in Greece, which, a few days ago was  
thought to be dying out somewhat, has  
flamed up more fiercely than ever, the  
crisis is becoming more acute every day,  
and the indications seem to be that  
Greece is determined to force the hands  
of the Powers at all hazards, and that  
speedily.

Ex-Senator David B. Hill is now being  
spoken of for election to the lower house  
of Congress, so that there may again be  
heard the crow of the Wolfert's Roost-  
er.

## Why He Knew.

"I know she's a kisser,"  
He said as a sicker  
Refrain twittered 'out from the juvenile  
wild!

"I couldn't forego it,  
I just had to know it  
As soon as my ears caught the mewl of  
the child."

## Sometimes.

A charge of murder in New York,  
By legal elasticity,  
May be interpreted to mean,  
A charge of electricity.

## Filling a Want.

"Look out there, Uncle, that dog may  
bite."  
"Da's all right, sah. I kyan 'say dat I  
got any se'us obstructions ter he doin' it,  
sah."  
"What! You don't object to his biting  
you?"  
"Not in de least, sah. Yo' see, Mistah,  
I be'n flashin' all de afternoon, an a sen-  
sational like dat 'w'at yo' intermate ud  
sorter break der memento-ry."

## Classified.

Dumbleton: Have you met Skipper  
lately?  
Flasher: Not in some time.  
Dumbleton: You have no idea how he  
has improved since his return from Paris.  
The more you consort with him the more  
you like him; he really grows on you,  
don't you know?  
Flasher: Ah yes, I see; a paris-lite.

## In New York.

Jester: Did you hear of Anthony Com-  
stock's latest sensation—his arresting one  
of New York's leading society women?  
Questioner: No; what did he arrest her  
for?  
Jester: Why, he overheard her telling  
a friend that she had nothing to wear,  
and he arrested her for fear that she  
might wear it.

## A Safe Retreat.

Lipper: Your friend Watson's was a very  
retiring fellow, wasn't he? Couldn't  
stand notoriety at all.  
Chipper: Indeed, he couldn't; that's  
the reason he went to Kentucky.  
Lipper: And why to Kentucky?  
Chipper: Because he felt that there his  
name wouldn't be in every one's mouth.

## A Righteous Referee.

Master: Jasper, did you notice any-  
thing unusual in my condition when I  
came home last night?  
Jasper: No, sah.  
Master: And yet some of my friends  
want to make out that I was drunk.  
Jasper: Dat zackly 'w'at make I say  
w'at I do, sah.

## Expert Opinion.

Mrs. Bungle: I see by your town paper  
that the constable arrested a squatter  
last night; what is a squatter, anyway?  
Mr. Bungle: Ha, ha! Don't know what  
a squatter is, er? Why, it's one er them  
bird dogs that the hunters take to go  
gunning with.

## All Alike.

Newcomer: If there is one thing I am  
particular about, it is the staff of life.  
What kind of breadstuff do you have at  
your boarding-house?  
Mossman: Our house? Oh, all the  
bread's tough there.

## Casual Wear.

"Major's got his knickerbockers on,  
hasn't he, mamma?" said Freddie, as the  
family dog came in after a long run.  
"Knickerbockers?" repeated his mother.  
"Yes," replied Freddie, "short pants,  
you know."

## Rather Queer.

"Funny about Leach, isn't it?"  
"What's funny about him?"  
"Why, the doctor says his being tied  
down to business so much has completely  
unstrung him."

It sounds funny to hear a man say  
that drunkenness is a standing menace  
to our national advancement.

The voyager in business waters does  
not always reach the haven of prosperity  
by puffing his sails.

## JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES.

How the Defects in the Present Law  
May Be Cured.

Franklin, Va., March 18, 1897.  
To the Editor of the Dispatch:  
Some time in February an article from  
Judge W. E. Homes, of Mecklenburg  
county, was published in the Dispatch  
with reference to certain desired amend-  
ments to the law giving magistrates  
jurisdiction of all misdemeanor cases,  
and about the same time your corre-  
spondent from Onancock gave your read-  
ers what purported to be the views of  
Senator LeCato in support of the said  
law and those of Dr. Charles Smith, in  
partial opposition to it.</